you want to take Madhya Pradesh, the regional office is in Bhopal, which covers both Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh; the FDl flow during this period in the Bhopal office is Rs. 238 crores.

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that our investment in infrastructure has not kept pace with, the growth of our GDP. Therefore, these figures are less relevant as figures themselves and more relevant as to what percentage of the GDP they constitute—the investment in infrastructure as a percentage in GDP. Sir, it has been widely reported that India investment in infrastructure as a percentage of GDP is far less than other comparable countries such a&China. Would the Hon. Minister give us some information as to where we stand *vis-a-vis* China and what the projections are as a percentage of GDP for the coming years?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the Investment Commission which was appointed by the Government has estimated that for sustaining a high growth rate, we would require an investment of approximately 28 per cent to 32 per cent of GDP. But, as hon. Members are aware, we have already achieved an investment level of nearly 33.8 per cent of the GDP in 2005-06. Sir the investment required to sustain a growth rate of about 8 per cent is. already taking place. Now, of course, this FDl constitutes a very small proportion. If you take trillion-dollar GDP, what we are projecting is 320 billion over a period of five years. That represents a small proportion of our GDP. The point is that the FDl in sectors where we allow FDl, it brings in new technology, brings in additional investment, brings in new products and brings us the opportunity to enter new markets and which is why we invite FDl. But in terms of investment as a proportion of GDP, our investment ratio has improved in the last three to four years. I believe in 2006-07 also, going by figures available from various sources, the investment to GDP ratio will be close to 35 per cent. That level of investment is good enough to sustain the current rate of growth. But if we want to increase the rate of growth, we need more investment and some part of that investment has to indeed come from foreign sources.

Dependence on oil imports

*464. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the third largest oil consuming

country in Asia and imports 70 per cent of its crude to meet its energy needs;

(b) if so, what steps the Ministry has so far taken to tap more domestic reservoirs to help offset its growing dependence on imports alongwith details thereof; and

(c) the budgetary allocations made during the year 2007-08 in comparison to the year 2006-07 to meet India's energy needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 464 to be answered on 08.05.2007 regarding dependence on oil imports

(a) Yes, Sir. During the year 2005, India was the third largest oil consuming
country in Asia, after China and Japan. To meet the demand, the country depended on imported crude to the extent of 73% during 2006-07.

(b) To tap more domestic reservoirs to help reduce its growing dependence on imports, the Government has taken following steps:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of NELP. Six rounds of bids have so far been invited under NELP, in which 162 exploration blocks have been awarded and 37 discoveries have already been made.

(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

(iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

(iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/lmproved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 13651 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

(vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.

(c) As far as the oil and natural gas sector is concerned, the PSU oil companies are financing the energy projects through internal resource generation. As against the estimated plan outlay of Rs. 36,800 crore for the PSU oil companies during 2006-07, the estimated outlay for 2007-08 is Rs. 38,900 crore. The Government provided a subsidy of Rs. 2,549 crore towards marketing of domestic LPG ad PDS kerosene during 2006-07 from the fiscal budget, besides providing oil bonds of Rs. 24,121 crore to the PSU oil marketing companies to compensate for the under-recoveries in marketing sensitive petroleum products. During the year 2007-08, the allocation towards subsidy for marketing domestic LPG and PDS kerosene is Rs. 2,680 crore.

श्री दारा सिंहः चेयरमैन सर, मेरा प्रश्न बहुत ही सिम्पल सा है और मुझे उसका जवाब भी मिल गया है। मैं समझता हूं कि जवाब किसी हद तक ठीक भी है, हमेशा यही नहीं होता कि हो रहा है, हो जाएगा। मेरा प्रश्न बहुत गम्भीर है, यह प्रश्न तेल के बारे में है। इस देश में कितना तेल उत्पादित होता है और उसकी खपत कितनी होती है, साथ ही बाहर से कितना तेल मंगाया जाता है? इसके उत्तर से मुझे पता चला कि 73% तेल बाहर से आता है। देश में जितना तेल उत्पादित होता है, खपत उससे कहीं ज्यादा है, ऐसे में मुझे एक पुरानी कहावत याद आ गई, "जितनी लम्बी ओढ़नी हो पांव उतने ही फैलाने चाहिए",अगर हम ऐसा नहीं करते हैं नहीं तो पांव नंगे हो जाते हैं। वैसे इस क्वेश्चन को देख कर मुझे लगता है कि हमारी बाडी का तो दो-तिहाई हिस्सा ही नंगा हो जाएगा।

यह बहुत सीरियस बात है। आज इसके ऊपर हमारा देश कितना अधिक निर्भर करता है, इसलिए इसकी तरफ बहुत जल्द ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए। अगर बाहर वाले आज सप्लाई बंद कर दें तब देश का क्या हाल होगा? ऐसा होने पर देश चल भी सकेगा या नहीं, कहा नहीं जा सकता।

वैसे तो इस प्रश्न का उत्तर मुझे मिल ही गया है और मंत्री जी की ओर से जो जवाब मिलना है, वह भी मुझे मालूम है, लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जितनी जल्दी से जल्दी हो सके, तेल का प्रोड़क्शन अपने ही देश में बढ़ाइए और साथ ही उतना ही खर्च करिए। बाहर वालों के ऊपर हमारी निर्भरता इतनी अधिक न रहे । बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री दिन्शा जे0 पटेल: सर, उसका नाम ही नैचुरल आयल गैस है। अपने देश में इसका जो प्रोडक्शन होता है, हम उसे बढ़ाने की पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं। सम्पूर्ण खपत का 30% देश में ही उत्पादित किया जाता है और 70% हम बाहर से मंगवा रहे हैं। इसका उत्पादन हम और अधिक बढ़ाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, इसके लिए धन भी लगा रहे हैं ताकि जल्दी से जल्दी इसे बढाया जा सके। इस कार्य के लिए यह सरकार पूरी कोशिश कर रही है।

SHRIMATIBRINDA KARAT: Thank you, Sir, forgiving me this opportunity. Sir, since we are talking about the energy needs of the country in this question — hon. Petroleum Minister is here — I would like to ask him whether he is aware that U.S. Senator as a part of US establishment has threatened India against the Iran gas deal. I would like to know whether the Minister will give us a categorical assurance in this House that his Government will not succumb to the U.S. pressures and meet the energy needs of the country by going ahead with Iran gas deal. ...*(Interruptions)*,.. Please give us a categorical assurance. ^.*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM ANDNATURALGAS (SHRIMURU DEORA): Sir, I can assure the hon. Member that India will not be cowed down by threat from anybody whether it is US senator or anybody else. ...*(Interruptions)*... *The* Energy Secretary of the United States came to India and he enquired about what is happening to the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline. We explained to them very clearly that it is not America's business. Whatever is good for us, we will go ahead with that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Extension of ethanoi-blended petrol programme

*465. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to extend ethanoi-blended petrol programme to every part of the country;

(b) if so, the number of States in which the programme is presently operational and the number of States where the extension of ethanoi-blended petrol programme is planned; and